

Message Text

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ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 IO-10

ACDA-05 SAM-01 EUR-12 /081 W

----- 051787

P R 291420Z DEC 75

FM AMEMBASSY GABORONE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 7448

INFO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

AMEMBASSY LOURENCO MARQUES

AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

AMEMBASSY MASERU

AMEMBASSY MBABANE

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

AMEMBASSY KINSHASA

C O N F I D E N T I A L GABORONE 1801

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, AO, BC, US

SUBJECT: ANGOLA

REF: A) STATE 303313; B) STATE 302323; C) STATE 301325

1. IN ABSENCE OF MINISTER FOR EXTERNAL AFFAIRS MOGWE AND SECRETARY FOR EXTERNAL AFFAIRS TIBONE WHO ARE ON HOLIDAY LEAVE, CHARGE' CALLED ON ACTING SECRETARY FOR EXTERNAL AFFAIRS SAM MPUCHANE DECEMBER 29 TO EXPLAIN U.S. POSITION ON ANGOLA USING SECRETARY'S DECEMBER 23 PRESS CONFERENCE AS OCCASION AS INSTRUCTED REF A. EMBASSY HAS ALSO BROUGHT SECRETARY'S PRESS CONFERENCE TO ATTENTION OF OTHER SENIOR GOB OFFICIALS.

2. MPUCHANE WAS ACCOMPANED BY SENIOR PRIVATE SECRETARY TO THE PRESIDENT L.J. LEGWAILA. DURING EXTENDED DISCUSSION ON ANGOLAN DEVELOPMENTS, BOTH LEGWAILA AND MPUCHANE EXPRESSED PERSONAL (AS CONTRASTED TO OFFICIAL) VIEWS THAT SOVIET UNION WOULD
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ULTIMATELY BE DISCREDITED IN ANGOLA IN SPITE OF POSSIBLE INITIAL

SUCCESSSES. TONE AS MUCH AS SUBSTANCE OF THEIR REMARKS REFLECTED DEEP-SEATED ANTIPATHY OF YOUNGER BATSWANA FOR ALL THINGS SOUTH AFRICAN. IT WAS CLEAR THAT THEY FEL T THAT UNITA AND FNLA HAD DISCREDITED THEMSELVES BY ALLOWING SOUTH AFRICA TO COME TO THEIR ASSISTANCE.

3. THEY CONFIRMED THAT BOTSWANA HAS NOT CHANGED ITS POSITION IN SUPPORT OF THE OAU CALL FOR NONRECOGNITION FOR ANY SINGLE GROUPING IN ANGOLA. IN THIS REGARD, HOWEVER, MPUCHANE TOOK NOTE OF RECENT RADIO NEWSCAST TO THE EFFECT THAT OAU CHAIRMAN IDI AMIN HAS MADE CONFUSING AND CONTRADICTORY STATEMENT THAT OAU SHOULD SUPPORT SOVIET EFFORTS IN ANGOLA TO DRIVE OUT SOUTH AFRICANS. MPUCHANE WONDERED IT THIS DID NOT PRESAGE A TURNABOUT ON AMIN'S PART WHICH COULD AFFECT OAU POSITION AND DIMINSH CHANCES FOR CONCERTED OAU ACTION.

4. COMMENT: MPUCHANE IS ONE OF YOUNGER BATSWANA WHO SEE VIRTUALLY EVERY ISSUE IN TERMS OF ITS SOUTH AFRICAN COMPONENT. IN THIS CASE, HE CLEARLY VIEWS SOUTH AFRICAN INVOLVEMTN AS AT LEAST AS SIGNIFICANT AS SOVIET INVOLVEMENT. ALTHOUGH HE AND LEGWAILA WERE REFLECTING PERSONAL VIEWS, THEY ARE THE VIEWS OF INFLUENTIAL YOUNGER ADVISORS TO THE MINISTER FOR EXTERNAL AFFAIRS AND THE PRESIDENT.

THOMSEN

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